

Week Ending Friday, March 10, 2000

**Exchange With Reporters
in San Jose, California**

March 3, 2000

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the idea of a Gore-Feinstein ticket?

The President. I think very highly of it. And I think she is immensely talented and would be good at anything. But this is a decision that the Vice President should make after he wins the nomination. And it's not done yet. So I would recommend that all these questions be deferred until after we know for sure that he's the nominee, and then you should ask him.

Q. How would you assess the Republican strategy using you to tarnish their Presidential candidates? How do you assess it?

The President. I don't know. You know, they've got to do what they've got to do. I wish—when I saw the Vice President and Senator Bradley in their last debate, I know that the conventional wisdom was it wasn't very interesting because they agreed on too much. But what I thought is, how fortunate we are to have people that know that much and care that much about things that will actually affect people's lives, instead of grab the day's headlines.

And I thought there was quite a remarkable contrast between the substantive level of knowledge and discussion in that debate and the one I heard last night. That's the only observation I want to make. I shouldn't—they can run their own campaigns. They don't need to have me commenting. I shouldn't get in the way of the Republicans or the Democrats right now. I'm not running. I'm enjoying watching it.

Q. But is this a campaign—[*inaudible*].

The President. Well, time will tell, won't it. The voters are in charge in this deal, not me.

Maine Initiative on the Digital Divide

Q. Can I clarify? The seventh graders who are going to get the laptops, can you tell me more about—

The President. Oh, yes. That's Maine. It's a great story. Angus King in Maine, it's great, he's got a system to give every seventh grader in the State—[*inaudible*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:30 p.m. at the Novell Headquarters. In his remarks, the President referred to former Senator Bill Bradley and Gov. Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Remarks at a Democratic National
Committee Dinner in San Francisco,
California**

March 3, 2000

Thank you very much. The first thing I would like to say to all of you, after thank you for the warm welcome, is that this is not the first time I have come here to campaign for Senator Feinstein's reelection. In fact, I'm an old hand at this. I came here in '94 to campaign for Senator Feinstein's reelection, and she stayed in Washington; I had to do it all by myself. [*Laughter*] So it's nice to be here with the evidence of my argument. I thank you very much.

I also want to thank Senator Barbara Boxer and Stu for being here, and Representative Barbara Lee, who is also off to a very fast start. The women from California in the Senate and the House have defied all of the preconceptions about how long it takes to become effective in the Congress. It could have something to do with that practical instinct of worrying more about what you're doing than where you're sitting. And they have really, really done a good job.